



THORGAL



Beyond the Shadows

ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME



Rosinski 83

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THORCAL

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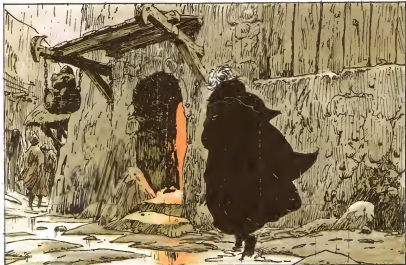
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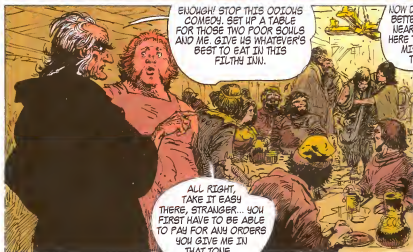






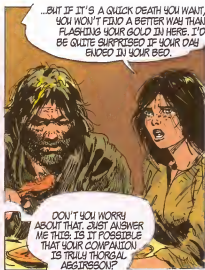
NOTHING, STRANGER, NOTHING. YOU'RE WELL INFORMED, INDEED. THE INTREPID LORD THORGAL OFTEN DOES ME THE HONOUR OF DINING IN MY HUMBLE ESTABLISHMENT...







I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE AFTER,
STRANGER...



...BUT IF IT'S A QUICK DEATH YOU WANT,
YOU WON'T FIND A BETTER WAY THAN
FLASHING YOUR GOLD IN HERE. I'D
BE QUITE SURPRISED IF YOUR DAY
ENDED IN YOUR BED.

DON'T YOU WORRY
ABOUT THAT. JUST ANSWER
ME THIS: IS IT POSSIBLE
THAT YOUR COMPANION
IS TRULY THORAL
AEGIRSSON?



THAT WAS HIS
NAME, YES... A LONG
TIME AGO.

IT'S HARD
TO BELIEVE
THAT THIS IS
THE MAN I'VE
BEEN TOLD
ABOUT...



...BUT THERE'S ONE FOOL-
PROOF WAY TO TELL.

HEY!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?



BY ALL THE GODS
OF MUSTELLHEIM,
THAT'S IT:
THE KEY TO
THE SECOND
WORLD!!



INCREDIBLE! THIS FLEA-RIDDEN
VAGABOND IS INDEED THE LAST
CHILD OF THE STARS!... THE ONLY
ONE CAPABLE OF HAVING COME BACK FROM
THE SECOND WORLD AFTER MANAGING
TO LEARN ITS SECRETS!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT? I DON'T UNDER-
STAND A WORD OF WHAT
YOU'RE SAYING...



ME NEITHER, BUT I'M
INTERESTED ALL THE SAME.
I'VE GOT A WEAKNESS
FOR PRECIOUS
THINGS...





QUICK,
LET'S LEAVE
THIS PLACE!
BUT...



THEY MADE
VOTIAK DISAP-
PEAR...

LET'S KILL
THEM!

THEY'RE
SORCERERS!

TO
DEATH!



GET BACK, MISERABLE
SWINE! MAKE WAY IF YOU
DON'T WANT TO JOIN YOUR
COMPANION IN THE
TORMENTS OF
ANOTHER
DIMENSION!



GET BACK!
GET BACK, ALL
OF YOU!

WE'LL
HAVE YOU,
SORCERERS!

WE'LL GET
YOU YET!

YOU WON'T
GET OUT OF
THIS TOWN
ALIVE!



THEY WENT
THAT WAY!
CALL THE
SOLDIERS!

THEY'RE
MURDERERS!

WHAT HAVE YOU
GOT US INTO, CURSED
OLD MAN? AS IF WE
DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH
PROBLEMS ALREADY...



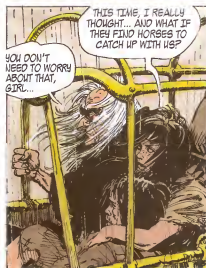
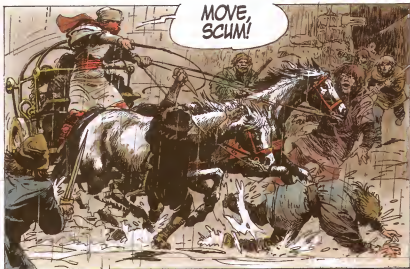
GET IN,
QUICKLY!

GET 'EM!

THEY'RE
GETTING
AWAY!

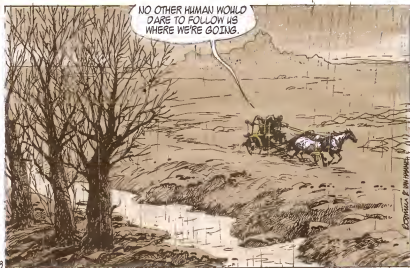


MOVE,
SCUM!



YOU DON'T
NEED TO WORRY
ABOUT THAT,
GIRL...

THIS TIME, I REALLY
THOUGHT... AND WHAT IF
THEY FIND HORSES TO
CATCH UP WITH US?



NO OTHER HUMAN WOULD
DARE TO FOLLOW US
WHERE WE'RE GOING.



NEVER. HE HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE THAT CURSED DAY HE LEARNED HIS WIFE WAS DEAD BECAUSE OF ME. IT'S NEARLY A YEAR NOW...



SOMETHING BROKE IN HIM. HE BECAME INDIFFERENT TO EVERYTHING, TO HAPPINESS AS MUCH AS TO THE WORST HUMILIATIONS. NOTHING SEEMS TO MOVE HIM. NOTHING CAN GET OVER THE WALL HE HAS PUT UP BETWEEN HIM AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

HMMM... AND DESPITE ALL THAT, YOU LOVE HIM?



SEE THE BLACK GALLERY

DESPITE OR BECAUSE OF THAT, YES, I LOVE HIM. HE NEEDS ME RIGHT NOW. I AM HIS ONLY SUPPORT... I SCORCH FROM TOWNS AND VILLAGES WHAT LITTLE THEY WANT TO GIVE US...

HOW WOULD I KNOW? I'M SURE THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, HE MUST HATE ME FOR WHAT I'VE DONE. UNLESS HE DOESN'T REALISE I'M HERE...

IT'S AS I FEARED. WARGAN: WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME.



AND HIM, SHANTAH, DOES HE LOVE YOU?



THIS LOST SOUL IS NOTHING BUT A HOPELESS, CONWARDLY WRECK.

ALAS, I CAN SEE THAT, LORD. BUT IT'S WORTH TRYING.

TRYING WHAT?

BUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR THORGAL GIVES YOU THE RIGHT TO KNOW THE ANSWERS. WAIT, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND...

MY NAME IS GALATHORN. EWING WAS SO DETERMINED TO CATCH ME BECAUSE I'M THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE THRONE OF BREK ZARTH, FROM WHICH I WAS TREACHEROUSLY DETHRONED WHILE IN MY CHILDHOOD BY MY TYRANNICAL, POMPONS AND CRUEL COUSIN WHO CALLS HIMSELF SHARDAR THE ALMIGHTY.

AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT YOUR FAMILY STORIES WOULD INTEREST US?

WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY? WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHY HAVE YOU WELCOMED, FED, WASHED AND CLOTHED US JUST TO BRING US HERE? WHERE ARE WE? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?

THAT'S A LOT OF QUESTIONS, SHANTAH...

DO YOU RECOGNISE ME?

HUH?!

OF COURSE I RECOGNISE YOU!... YOU'RE THE MAN WHO STOLE THORGAL'S HORSE FROM ME A YEAR AGO... THE FUGITIVE WHOM IARL EWING WAS FOLLOWING!...

EXACTLY. I MANAGED TO GET AWAY FROM THE BLACK GALLES. IT WAS THAT HORSE THAT SAVED ME.

NOTHING, OF COURSE. IT'S JUST THAT I'M WAITING FOR THORGAL TO HELP ME TAKE BACK BREK ZARTH!

???

HAHAHAHA!
THAT'S SO FUNNY!...



JUST LOOK AT HIM,
YOUR HERO! LOOK
HOW READY HE IS TO
CONQUER A KINGDOM
BECAUSE OF YOU...
BECAUSE OF ME...



LISTEN,
GIRL...

SHUT UP! SHUT UP
AND GO! GET OUT OF
HERE! LEAVE US IN OUR
UNHAPPY PEACE! IT'S GOT
NOTHING TO DO WITH
YOU FROM NOW ON.



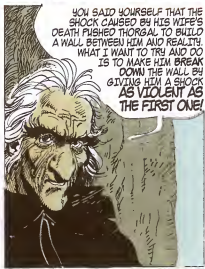
CALM DOWN, SHANIAH. WE'RE ONLY
TRYING TO HELP THORGAL SO HE CAN
HELP US. STARTING WITH TRYING
TO HEAL HIM.

HEAL HIM
OF WHAT?...
NO, NOT
POSSIBLE.

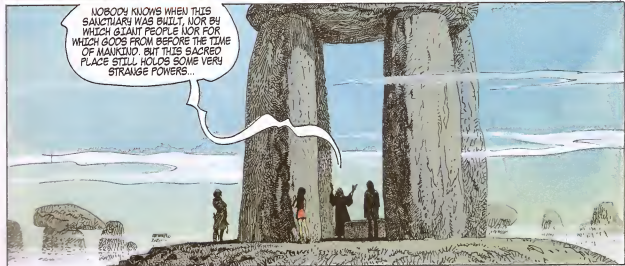
YOU'RE
REACTING AS
IF YOU WOULD
LIKE IT TO BE
IMPOSSIBLE.
BUT IT'S NOT
NECESSA-
RILY...



YOU SAID YOURSELF THAT THE
SHOCK CAUSED BY HIS WIFE'S
DEATH PUSHED THORGAL TO BUILD
A WALL BETWEEN HIM AND REALITY.
WHAT I WANT TO TRY AND DO
IS TO MAKE HIM BREAK
DOWN THE WALL BY
GIVING HIM A SHOCK
AS VIOLENT AS
THE FIRST ONE!



NOBODY KNOWS WHEN THIS
SANCTUARY WAS BUILT, NOR BY
WHICH GIANT PEOPLE NOR FOR
WHICH GODS FROM BEFORE THE TIME
OF MANKIND. BUT THIS SACRED
PLACE STILL HOLDS SOME VERY
STRANGE POWERS...





LOOK AT THE WATER, THORGAL, LOOK



AARICIA!... SHE'S DEAD... DEAD...



AARICIA ISN'T DEAD! SHE'S ALIVE, THORGAL! ALIVE!!



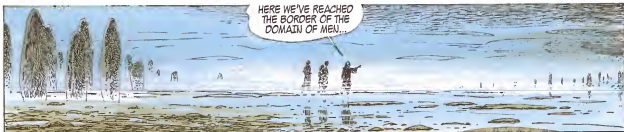
YOU'RE LYING!



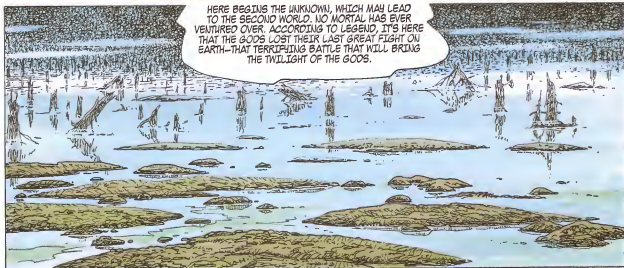


IN BREK GAROTH I KNOW FROM A TRUSTWORTHY SOURCE, BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT OUR TIME IS SHORT. AARICIA IS STILL ALIVE, BUT NOT FOR LONG. SHE WAS PICKED UP NEAR THE COAST OF YOUR VILLAGE BY ONE OF SHARDAR'S VESSELS THAT WAS OUT TO FIND ME. SHE WAS HALF DROWNED AND JUST ABOUT TO GIVE BIRTH... THE VESSEL TOOK HER TO THE ROYAL BREK GAROTH COURT.





HERE WE'VE REACHED
THE BORDER OF THE
DOMAIN OF MEN...



HERE BEGINS THE UNKNOWN, WHICH MAY LEAD
TO THE SECOND WORLD. NO MORTAL HAS EVER
VENTURED OVER. ACCORDING TO LEGEND, IT'S HERE
THAT THE GODS LOST THEIR LAST GREAT FIGHT ON
EARTH—THAT TERRIFYING BATTLE THAT WILL BRING
THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS.

AND WHEN THE GODS RETIRED, THEY RAISED
INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES BETWEEN
THEM AND MEN, OF WHICH WE KNOW
NOTHING YET. IT'S THESE OBSTACLES
THAT THORGAL MUST OVERCOME.



SINCE BIRTH HE HAS RECEIVED THE SIGNS
THAT THE GODS BESTOW ON THOSE WHOM
THEY CHOOSE TO FAVOUR WITH AN EXCEP-
TIONAL DESTINY. AND HE POSSESSES THE
KEY TO THE SECOND WORLD. HE ALONE
WOULD HAVE A SMALL HOPE OF
SUCCEEDING...



BUT WHAT
FOR? WHY?

WHEN HUMAN STRENGTH CAN NO
LONGER SAVE SOMEONE FROM CERTAIN
DEATH, ALL THAT'S LEFT TO DO IS TO
BOW BEFORE THE UNKNOWN ENTITIES
WHO HOLD THAT PERSON'S EXISTENCE
IN THEIR HANDS.



SO IT'S NOT TO THE SECOND
WORLD THAT THORGAL MUST GO
TO SAVE AARICIA, BUT,

**BEYOND
THAT,
TO DEATH
ITSELF!**



YOU... YOU'RE
MAD! YOUR WORDS
DON'T MAKE ANY
SENSE!

THEY DID
TO ME
SHANIAH.



THORGA!
YOU... YOU'RE TALKING?!
YOU'RE ALIVE!



I'M ALIVE AGAIN,
SHANIAH. FINALLY EMER-
GING FROM A LONG NIGHT-
MARE WHERE SOMEONE
ELSE HAD TAKEN
OVER MY BODY.



A LONG YEAR, SHANIAH,
A YEAR THAT I SHOULD
NEVER HAVE HAD AND
THROUGH WHICH YOU
NEVERTHELESS PROTECTED
ME LIKE A CHILD.



BUT I CAN SEE THE SKY AGAIN...
I CAN HEAR YOUR VOICES... AND
EVEN IF THERE'S ONLY A BREATH
OF EXISTENCE LEFT IN HER,
AARICIA IS ALIVE! TODAY,
WARGSA, YOU'VE SAVED
ME TWICE OVER.



THORGA! YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO BELIEVE THESE MEN?...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TRY
THIS PURE MADNESS?...



YES, I BELIEVE THEM.
DESTINY HAS GIVEN THEM
THE ONLY REASON STRONG
ENOUGH TO PUSH ME TO
HELP THEM TAKE BACK THEIR
KINGDOM. AND, I HAVE
NOTHING TO LOSE.



SO I ACCEPT YOUR IDEA AND
YOUR DEAL, PRINCE GALATHORN!
**I'LL GO BEYOND
THE SECOND
WORLD!**



?!?



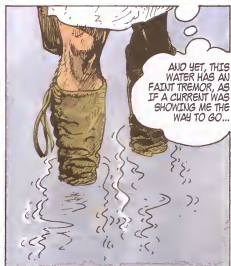
I TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID
EARLIER: THERE IS LIFE
IN THIS SWAMP...
AND WHAT LIFE!



THORGAL!
OVER HERE!



NOT THE SMALLEST
SIGN OF LIFE... NOT
BIRD, NOR INSECT,
NOR PLANT...
NOTHING.

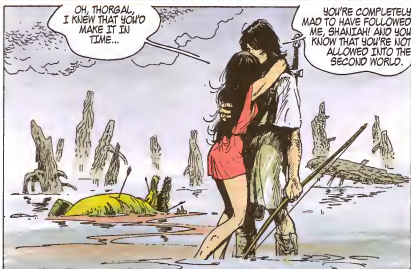
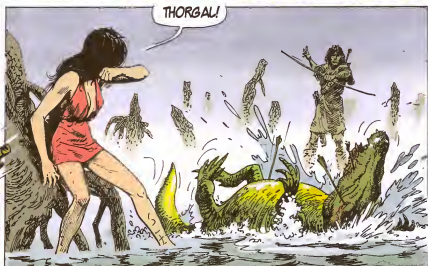


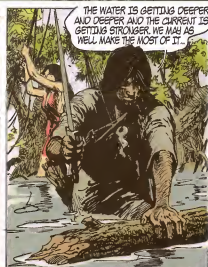
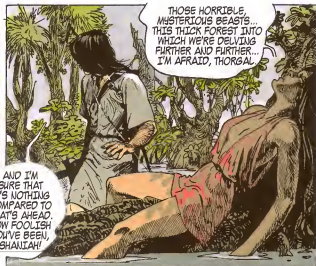
AND YET, THIS
WATER HAS AN
FAINT TREMOR, AS
IF A CURRENT WAS
SHOWING ME THE
WAY TO GO...

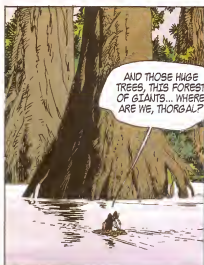


AT LAST A LITTLE BEAUTY
IN THIS LIQUID DESERT.
IS IT A TRAP OR
A GOOD OMEN?





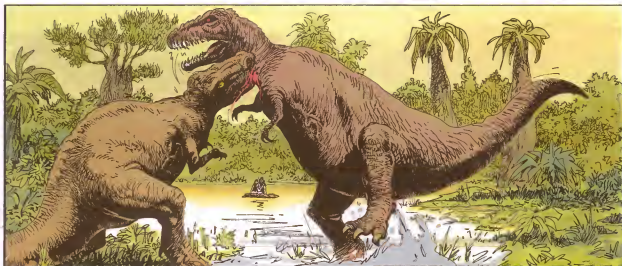




DO YOU...
THINK THAT THAT'S
WHAT THEY CALL
A DRAGON?

IT HAS
TO BE.

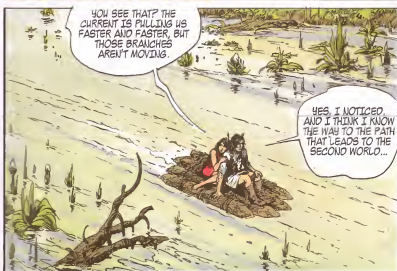
THE WIZARD-PRIESTS TOLD
US THAT THESE DRAGONS ONCE
RULED THE EARTH LONG BEFORE
MAN ARRIVED...



YOU SEE THAT? THE
CURRENT IS PULLING US
FASTER AND FASTER, BUT
THOSE BRANCHES
AREN'T MOVING.

YES, I NOTICED
AND I THINK I KNOW
THE WAY TO THE PATH
THAT LEADS TO THE
SECOND WORLD...

WE'RE BEING PULLED THROUGH
TIME, TO THE FIRST AGES OF
EARTH!!



THE FIRST BIRDS...



...THE FIRST LAND CREATURES...



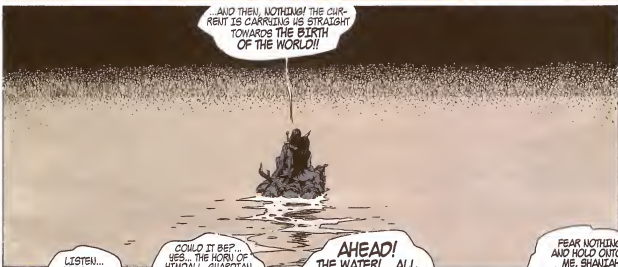
...THE FIRST FISH...



...THE FIRST VEGETATION...



...AND THEN, NOTHING! THE CURRENT IS CARRYING US STRAIGHT TOWARDS THE BIRTH OF THE WORLD!!



LISTEN... IT SOUNDS LIKE THE CALL OF A HORN...



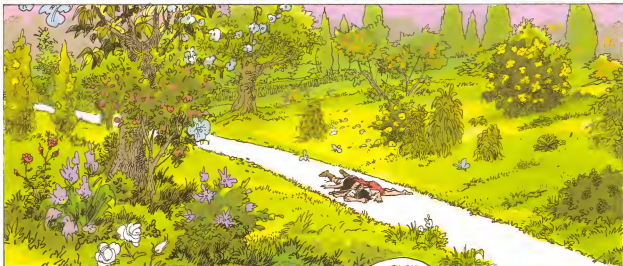
COULD IT BE?... YES... THE HORN OF HINDALL, GUARDIAN OF THE CELESTIAL BRIDGE THAT LEADS TO THE HOME OF THE GODS!...

AHEAD! THE WATER!... ALL THE WATER IS DISAPPEARING INTO AN ABYSS!

FEAR NOTHING AND HOLD ONTO ME, SHANIAH. WE'RE GOING TO CROSS INFINITY!



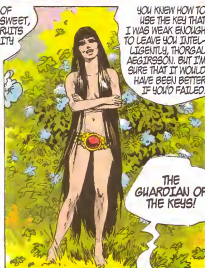




WHERE ARE WE?

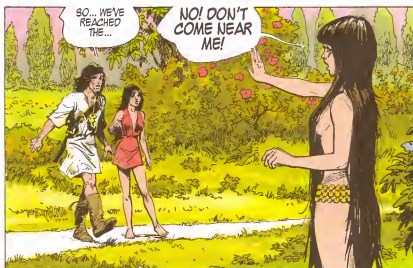


IN THE GARDEN OF ASGARD, MY SWEET, WHERE THE FRUITS OF ETERNITY GROW.



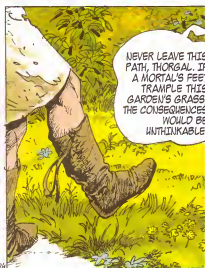
YOU KNEW HOW TO USE THE KEY THAT I WAS WEAK ENOUGH TO LEAVE YOU INTELLIGENTLY, THORGAL AGAIRSSON. BUT I'M SURE THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU'D FAILED.

THE GUARDIAN OF THE KEYS!



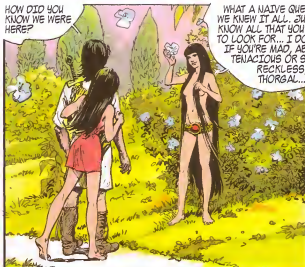
SO... WE'VE REACHED THE...

NO! DON'T COME NEAR ME!



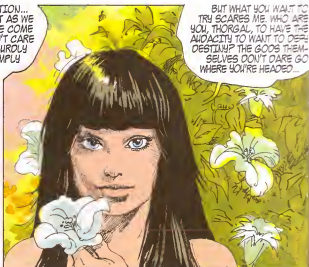
NEVER LEAVE THIS PATH, THORGAL. IF A MORTAL'S FEET TRAMPLE THIS GARDEN'S GRASS, THE CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE UNTHINKABLE!

HOW DID YOU
KNOW WE WERE
HERE?



WHAT A NAIVE QUESTION...
WE KNEW IT ALL. JUST AS WE
KNOW ALL THAT YOU'VE COME
TO LOOK FOR... I DON'T CARE
IF YOU'RE MAD, ABSURDLY
TENUOUS OR SIMPLY
RECKLESS.
THORGA!

BUT WHAT YOU WANT TO
TRY SCARES ME. WHO ARE
YOU, THORGA, TO HAVE THE
AUDACITY TO WANT TO DEFI
DESTINY? THE GODS THEM-
SELVES DON'T DARE GO
WHERE YOU'RE HEADED.



A SHAME.



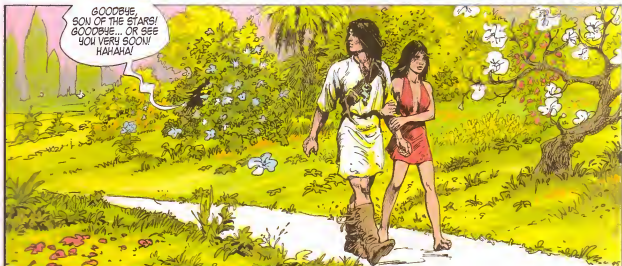
AS FOR YOU, OVERLY POSSESSIVE,
IRRATIONAL LITTLE MORTAL, I HIGHLY
DOUBT THAT YOU'LL EVER BREATHE YOUR
WORLD'S AIR AGAIN. YOU CAN'T CHANGE
DESTINY WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE...
EVEN WITH LOVE.

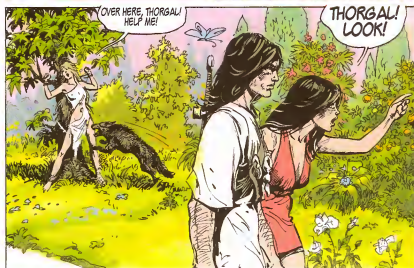
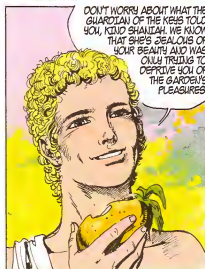
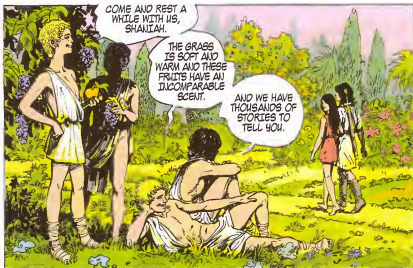
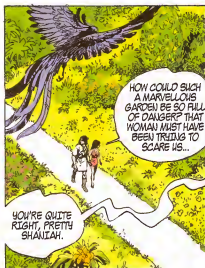


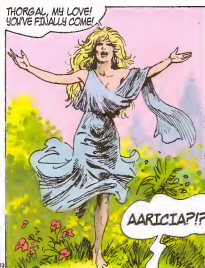
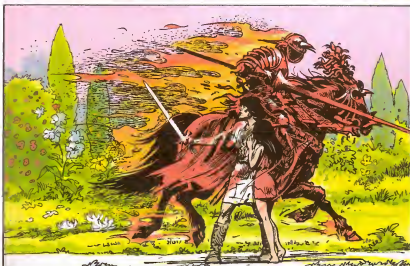
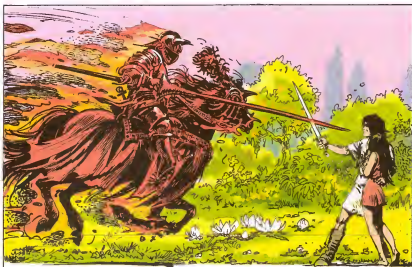
FOLLOW THE PATH
NOW. AND REMEMBER:
NEVER LEAVE THE
PATH FOR ANY
REASON!

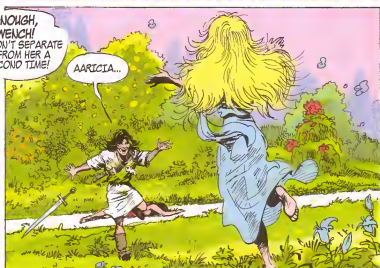
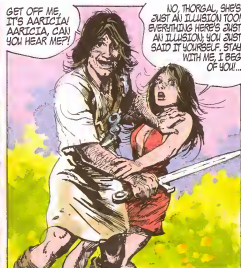
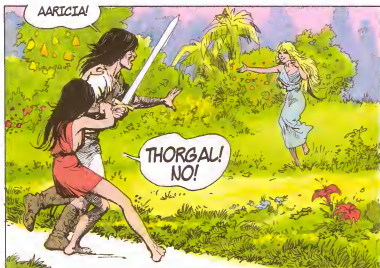


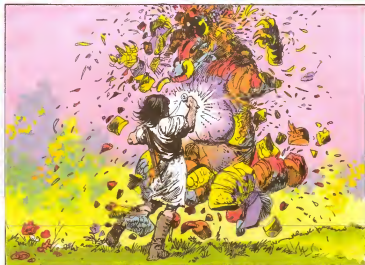
GOODBYE,
SON OF THE STARS!
GOODBYE... OR SEE
YOU VERY SOON!
HAHAHA!

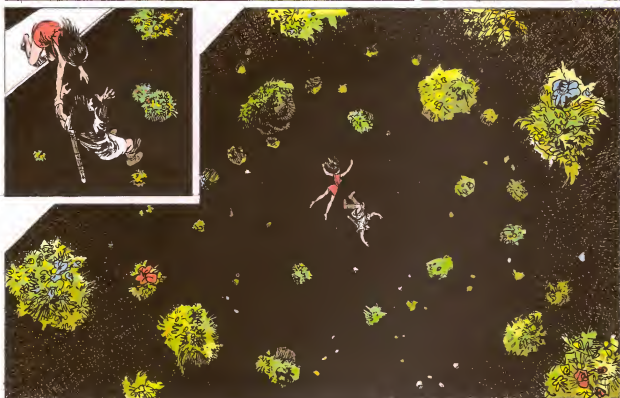


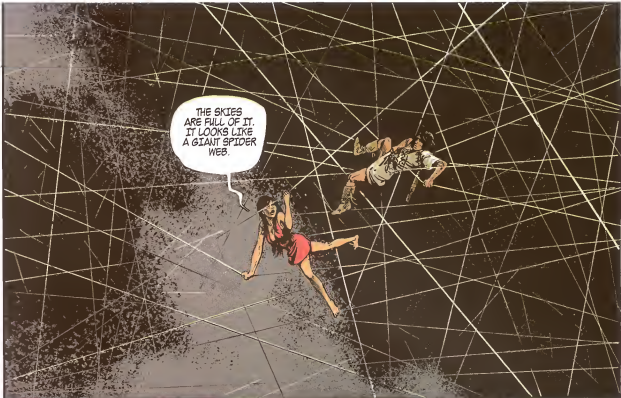












THE SKY?
I CAN'T SEE
ANY STARS
OUT...



THORGAL, THESE
THREADS... THEY'RE
MOVING AS IF... AS IF
THEY'RE... ALIVE!

WHAT'S GOING
TO HAPPEN TO
US, THORGAL?
I THINK THAT... I'M
SO HORRIBLY
SCARED...



ME TOO,
SHANIAH.
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S IN STORE
FOR US IN THIS
STRANGE
PLACE.



... BUT BEFORE THAT I
WANTED TO TELL YOU...
WHEN I HIT YOU... I'D LOST
MY MIND. I'M... I'M SO
ASHAMED OF MYSELF,
MY GIRL...

NO, HUSH NOW.
JUST LEAVE
THE SOFTNESS
OF YOUR HAND
ON ME...







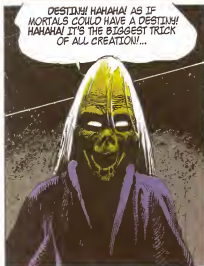


I'M NOT HERE TO
WELCOME YOU, THORGAL
AEGIRSSON. NOBODY,
NEITHER GOD NOR MAN,
IS WELCOME HERE.

YES, THORGAL, YOU'VE FINALLY
REACHED YOUR GOAL. I AM THE
ONE YOU WANTED TO MEET...
THE ONE WITH NO NAME,
BECAUSE I'M GIVEN TOO
MANY: LIFE... DEATH...
MISFORTUNE...
DESTINY...



DESTINY! HAAAA! AS IF
MORTALS COULD HAVE A DESTINY!
HAAAA! IT'S THE BIGGEST TRICK
OF ALL CREATION!...



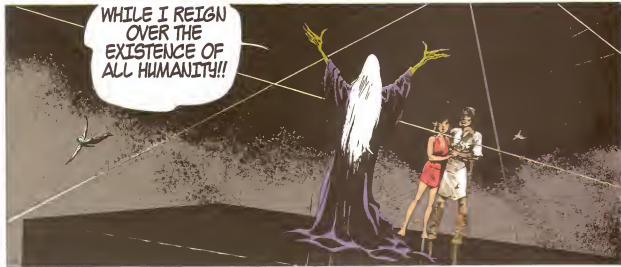
EVEN HERE, WHERE
THE FINAL MOMENTS
MEET THE BEGINNING
OF EVERYTHING,
EVEN HERE THERE'S
ONLY FORTUNE'S
TOYS IN A NEVER-
CHANGING DANCE
CHOREOGRAPHED
BY THE VOID,
HAAAA!



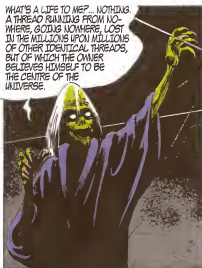
AND YOU, YOU CAME TO ASK
ME FOR A LIFE? ONE SOLE,
PATHETIC LIFE?... THAT'S
PRETTY FUNNY!



WHILE I REIGN
OVER THE
EXISTENCE OF
ALL HUMANITY!!



WHAT'S A LIFE TO ME? ... NOTHING
A THREAD RUNNING FROM NOWHERE,
GODS NOWHERE, LOST
IN THE MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS
OF OTHER IDENTICAL THREADS,
BUT OF WHICH THE OWNER
BELIEVES HIMSELF TO BE
THE CENTRE OF THE
UNIVERSE.



IS IT AN OLD MAN OR A
CHILD? A STUNNING YOUNG
PRINCESS OR A POOR
UNDERFED PEASANT? A
KING OR A BEGGAR?



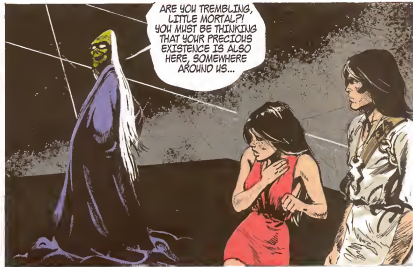
DOESN'T MATTER...



...THE WORLD
HAS ALREADY
FORGOTTEN
THEM.



ARE YOU TREMBLING,
LITTLE MORTAL?!
YOU MUST BE THINKING
THAT YOUR PRECIOUS
EXISTENCE IS ALSO
HERE, SOMEWHERE
AROUND US...



AMONGST
THESE ONES,
PERHAPS...
OR THOSE
ONES?...



WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS,
WITHOUT KNOWING IT, YOU
ARE ALREADY DEAD.
HAHAHA!

ENOUGH!



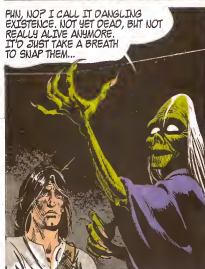


WHY THIS
CRUEL
GAME?

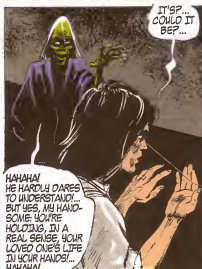
GAME?
CRUEL?
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?...
PEOPLE NEED
TO BE BORN,
LIVE AND THEN
DIE... THAT'S
MY ROLE.



WELL... PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M NOT OFTEN LUCKY ENOUGH TO
HAVE VISITORS... I GET BORED.
LOOK... I'LL SHOW YOU ANOTHER
OF MY GAMES...



FWN, NO? I CALL IT DANGLING
EXISTENCE. NOT YET DEAD, BUT NOT
REALLY ALIVE ANYMORE.
IT'D JUST TAKE A BREATH
TO SNAP THEM...



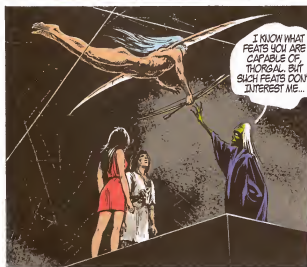
IT'SP...
COULD IT
BE?...

HAHAHA!
HE HARDLY DARES
TO UNDERSTAND!
BUT YES, MY HAND-
SOME. YOU'RE
HOLDING, IN A
REAL SENSE, YOUR
LOVED ONE'S LIFE
IN YOUR HANDS!...
HAHAHA!



I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE THE
POWER TO GIVE AARICIA
LIFE AGAIN. WHAT DO YOU
WANT IN EXCHANGE? I'LL
DO ANYTHING...

ANYTHING,
EHP?



I KNOW WHAT
FEATS YOU ARE
CAPABLE OF,
THORFAL. BUT
SUCH FEATS DON'T
INTEREST ME...



HERE'S YOUR BOW.
ALL I'M ASKING IN
EXCHANGE FOR YOUR
WIFE'S LIFE IS TO
SHOOT AN ARROW.
ONLY ONE.
**IN ANY
DIRECTION!**





!!
THERE YOU GO! YOU SEE... THAT WASN'T SO HARD.



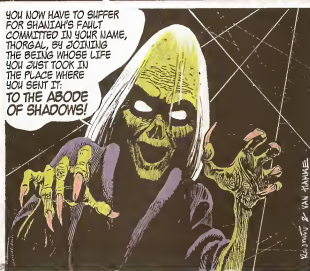
BEAUTIFUL AARTICIA IS WAKING UP. SHE NO LONGER REMEMBERS HER LONG AGONY AND HER FIRST THOUGHT IS FOR YOU, THORGAL. SHE'S CALLING YOU WITH ALL HER HEART, ALL HER SOUL...



TOUCHING, ISN'T IT?



IT'S ALL THE MORE TOUCHING THAT YOU'RE NOT CLOSE TO SEEING HER AGAIN, MY BOY. ARE YOU SO NAIVE AS TO BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN SUBSTITUTE YOURSELF TO THE GODS WITH NO CONSEQUENCE?



YOU NOW HAVE TO SUFFER FOR SHANIAH'S FAULT COMMITTED IN YOUR NAME, THORGAL, BY JOINING THE BEING WHOSE LIFE YOU JUST TOOK IN THE PLACE WHERE YOU SENT IT: TO THE ABODE OF SHADOWS!

REYNOLDS & VAN HAMME

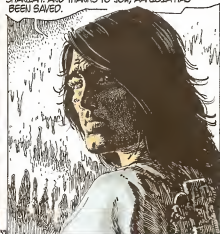


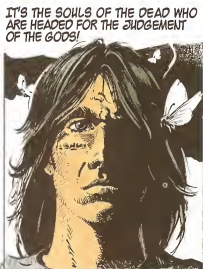
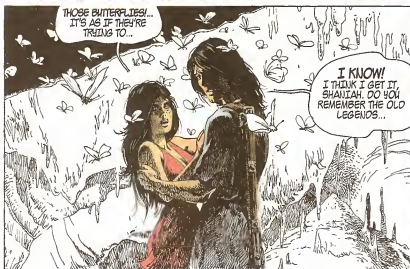
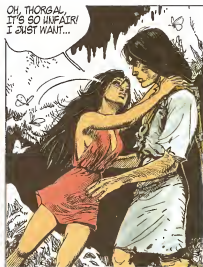
THAT'S THE THIRD
TIME WE'VE COME OUT
IN THE SAME PLACE.
WE'LL NEVER GET OUT
OF THIS CURSED
LABYRINTH!



IT'S ALL
MY FAULT. I'VE
CONDEMNED US TO
AN ETERNITY OF
WANDERING
AROUND DOWN
HERE

NO! I DON'T THINK WHAT YOU DID WAS RIGHT, BUT
AT LEAST YOU HAD THE COURAGE TO DO IT FOR ME,
SHANTAH. AND THANKS TO YOU, AARICIA HAS
BEEN SAVED.





WE'RE IN NIFLHEIM, LITTLE GIRL! THE UNDERWORLD! TO GET BACK TO THE SURFACE, WE JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION TO THE BUTTERFLY PATH!

WELL REASONED, THORGAL!

BUT YOU HAVE TO WORK QUICKLY. THE EARTH ONLY OPENS ONCE A MONTH, ON THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON, TO WELCOME THE SOULS OF THE DEPARTED. AND TONIGHT, IN YOUR WORLD, IS A FULL MOON NIGHT.

YOU ONLY GET THIS ONE CHANCE. IF YOU DON'T MAKE IT OUT BEFORE SUNRISE IN YOUR WORLD, YOU'LL ROAM AROUND HERE UNTIL THE END OF TIME.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE WON'T SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, THORGAL. GIVE ME BACK MY KEY.

THE KEY? WHY?

I WAS WRONG TO GIVE IT TO YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE. THANKS TO IT, YOU ACCOMPLISHED THE IMPOSSIBLE AND THE GODS ARE QUITE IRRITATED. EVEN YOU ARE JUST A MORTAL, THORGAL. ALAS!

BUT... WITHOUT THAT KEY... HOW WILL WE GET OUT?

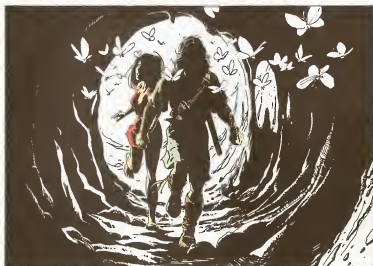
GARM, THE GUARDIAN-GOD OF THE HELLS, DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE LIVING. HURRY ALONG NOW, HURRY ALONG...

HURRY ALONG, THORGAL ABSTURSON... HURRY ALONG... HURRY ALONG...

SEEMS LIKE THE REAL HERO'S
LUCK IS BEING ABLE TO PLEASE
WOMEN, MORTAL OR NOT.



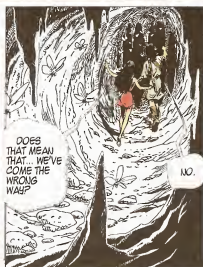
LET'S NOT WASTE ANY
MORE TIME, SHANIAH
COME ON!



I CAN'T BELIEVE
THAT THESE ARE...



ME NEITHER, BUT WHAT
WORRIES ME THE
MOST IS THAT THERE
ARE FEWER AND
FEWER OF THEM.



DOES
THAT MEAN
THAT... WE'VE
COME THE
WRONG
WAY?

NO.



IT MEANS THAT DAWN
ON EARTH IS CLOSE
AT HAND.

THERE!
THE EXIT!

WE'VE MADE IT,
SHANIAH... FOLLOW
ME, QUICKLY!

THORGAL!

NO!

GODS OF HELL!...
WHY?!

BECAUSE THE DEAD NEVER COME
BACK OUT, THORGAL AEGIRSSON!!

THE
DEAD?!

THE THREAD!...
THE EXISTENCE
THAT YOUR
ARROW SLICED
THROUGH... WAS...
YOUR OWN!!



COULD IT HAVE
BEEN ANY DIFFERENT?
A LIFE FOR A LIFE,
THORGAL... IT'S THE
ETERNAL LAW...



AND IT'S BETTER THIS
WAY. AARICIA IS ALIVE.
FOR WHAT, FOR WHOM
WOULD I LIVE FOR
NOW?

BUT YOU'VE PAID FOR YOUR
MISTAKE, SHANIAH! I'D
FORGIVEN YOU!

FORGIVEN,
YES. BUT NOT
LOVED...



SHANIAH!...

WHILST I, I LOVED
YOU, THORGAL.
I LOVED YOU...

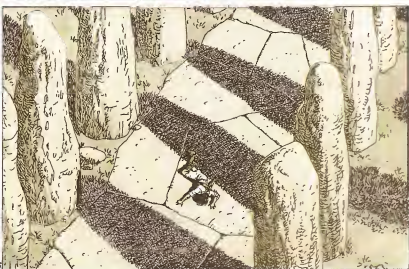


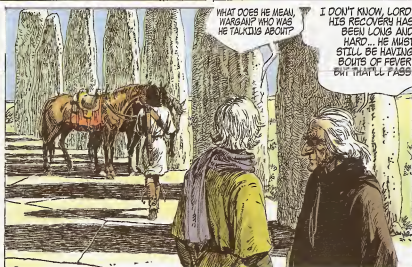
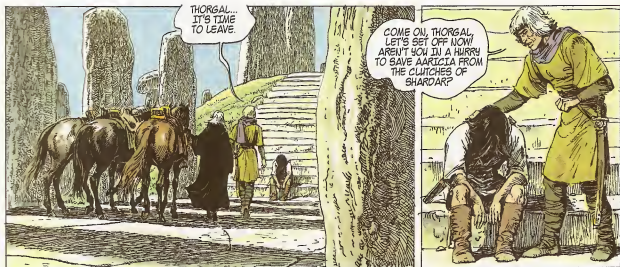
...TO
DEATH.



BE
HAPPY,
THORGAL!
DON'T FORGET
ME TOO
FAST...







THE END

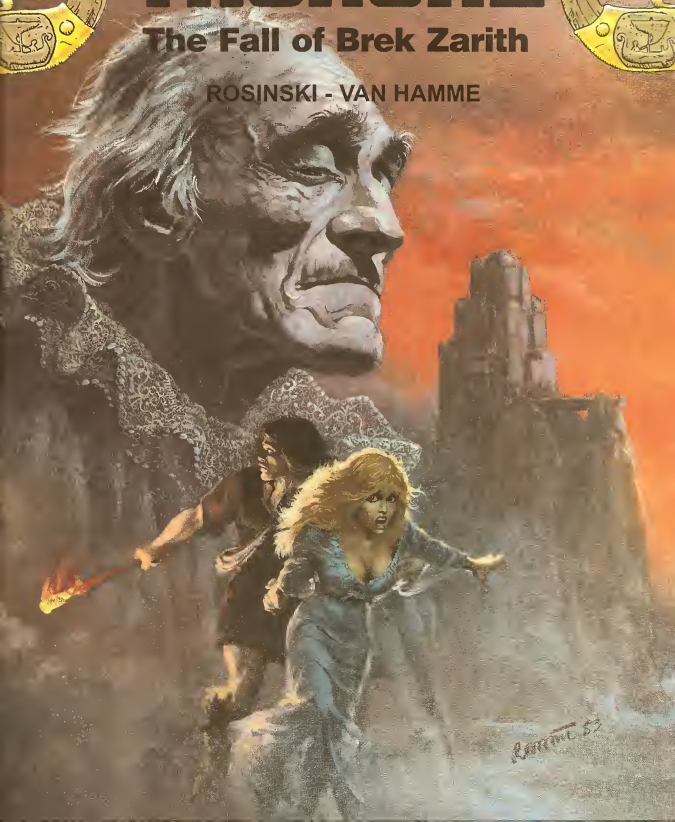


THORGAL



The Fall of Brek Zarith

ROSINSKI - VAN HAMME

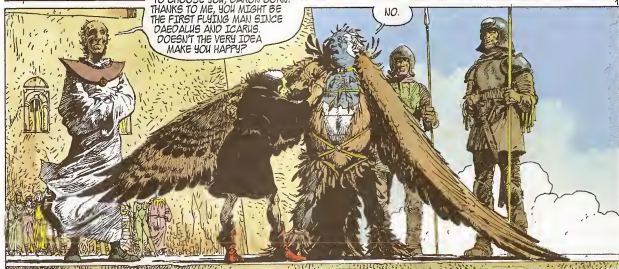
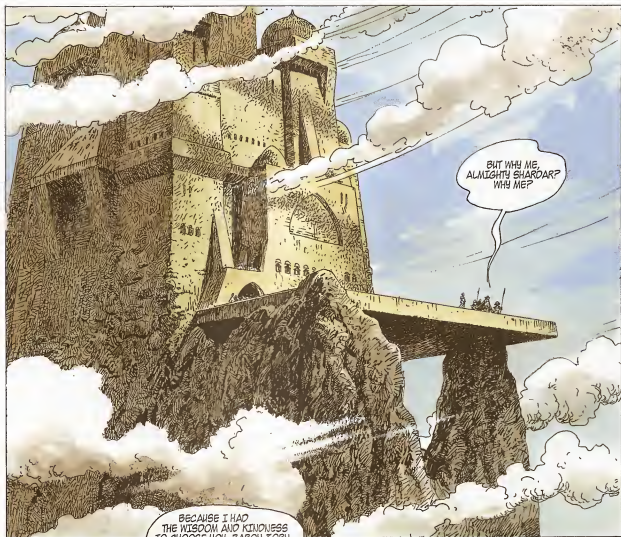


ROSINSKI-VAN HAMME

THORGAL

The Fall of Brek Zarith





I'M NOT WORTHY OF SUCH AN HONOUR, ALMIGHTY SHARDAR. SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE...

AH, QUITE THE INGRATE, BARON ZORN.

FOR YEARS, NOW, I'VE FED YOU FEASTS AND PLEASURES, AND I FEED YOU TO DO NOTHING... AND NOW, YOU WOULD REFUSE TO HELP ME IN MY RESEARCH? YES INDEED, QUITE THE INGRATE.



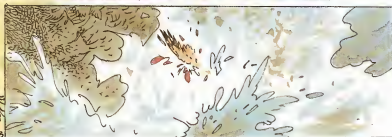
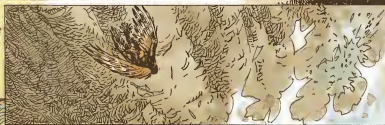
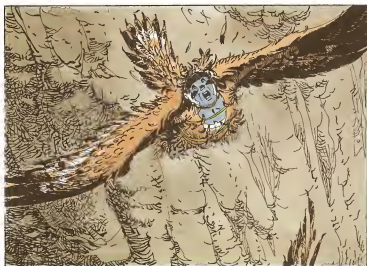
THERE, I'M DONE. YOU MUST REMEMBER TO FLAP YOUR WINGS HARD LIKE I SHOWED YOU, ALL RIGHT?..

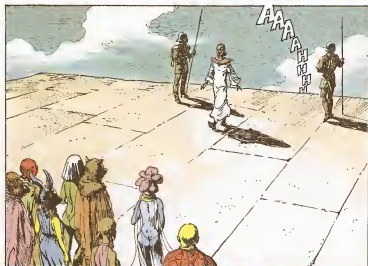
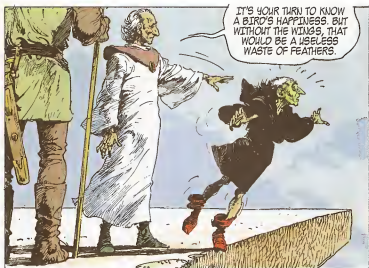
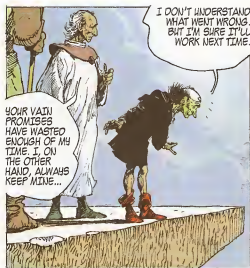
THIS TIME IT'LL WORK, ALMIGHTY SHARDAR, I'M SURE OF IT.

I HOPE SO FOR YOUR SAKE... CAREFUL!

Nooo

NO, HAVE MERCY, SHARDAR! MERCY!





I PUT HIM TO SLEEP, MASTER, BUT... I'LL ADMIT THAT THE FORCE OF THE SPIRITS INHABITING A BODY AS YOUNG AS THIS IS SLIGHTLY UNNERVING. I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN STILL CONTROL THEM...

NONSENSE, HELGITH!



MY RESEARCH AIMS TO DO JUST THAT, TO COMMAND SUCH A FORCE. THE BIGGER IT IS, THE MORE POWERFUL I'LL BE.

ARE YOU NEVER SCARED OF DEFYING THE GODS?



I'VE SEEN TOO MUCH AND I'M TOO OLD TO BE AFRAID OF ANYTHING, HELGITH. YOU MAY BEGIN—I'M READY.



ARN BRAZ DAWIN DEMATUR JAWAL!
ARN BRAZ DAWIN DEMATUR RAGAN!
ARN BRAZ DAWIN
GALESH QUASHAR!



THINK ABOUT YOUR ENEMIES, MASTER! SUMMON EVERYTHING THAT'S HOSTILE TO YOU! THINK ABOUT THE WRETCHES, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, WHO DARE TO THREATEN THE GREATNESS OF SHARDAR THE ALMIGHTY, KING OF BREK GARTH AND OTHER LANDS BEYOND THE OCEAN...





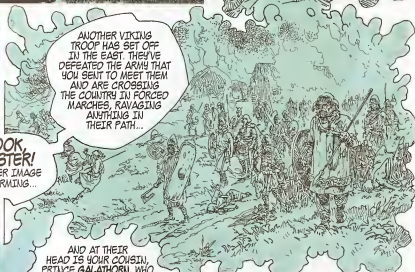
VIKING
DRAKKARS! MORE
THAN FORTY DRAK-
KARS ARE HEADED
STRAIGHT FOR
BREK GARITH!

THEY'RE LED BY
JORUND THE BULL, KING
OF THE NORTHERN VIKINGS,
THIRSTY FOR GOLD AND
FOR BLOODY BATTLES...



MY SPIES
HAVE ALREADY
TOLD ME
THIS.

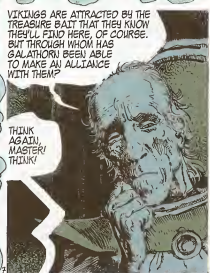
LOOK,
MASTER!
ANOTHER IMAGE
IS FORMING...



AND AT THEIR
HEAD IS YOUR COUSIN,
PRINCE GALATHORN, WHO
HOPES TO TAKE BACK THE
THRONE THAT YOU TOOK
FROM HIM WHEN HE WAS
A CHILDO...

VIKINGS ARE ATTRACTED BY THE
TREASURE BAIT THAT THEY KNOW
THEY'LL FIND HERE, OF COURSE.
BUT THROUGH WHOM HAS
GALATHORN BEEN ABLE
TO MAKE AN ALLIANCE
WITH THEM?

THINK
AGAIN,
MASTER!
THINK!



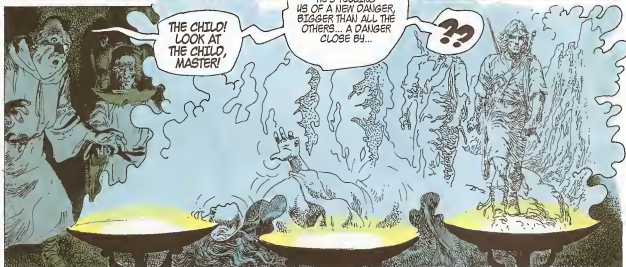


YOUR BARONS,
MASTER! BREK ZARITH'S
BARONS! THE KINGDOM'S
PUPPETS THAT YOU CONTROL
THROUGH TERROR AND
PLEASURE!

OF ALL YOUR ENEMIES, THEY
HATE YOU THE MOST. TO THEM,
GALATHORN'S ARRIVAL WILL
BE THE BEST OCCASION
TO BETRAY YOU.



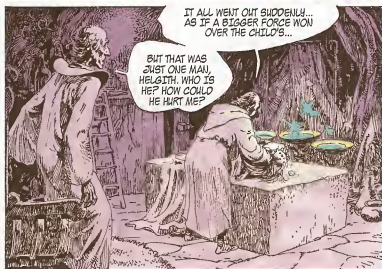
DO YOU
REALLY THINK
YOU'RE TELLING
ME SOMETHING
I DON'T
KNOW?



THE CHILD!
LOOK AT
THE CHILD,
MASTER!

HE'S TELLING
US OF A NEW DANGER,
BIGGER THAN ALL THE
OTHERS... A DANGER
CLOSE BY...

??



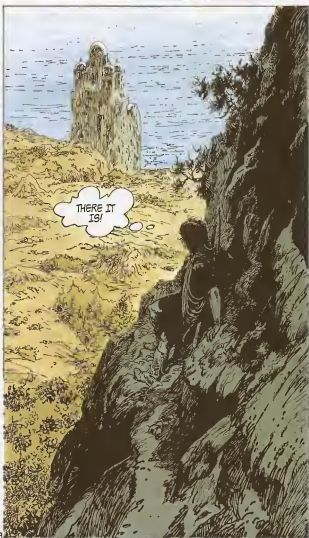
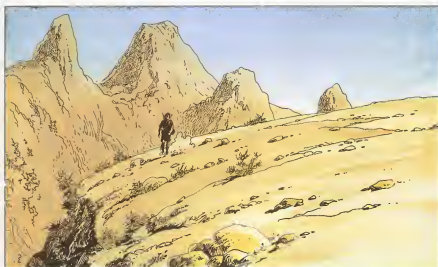
IT ALL WENT OUT SUDDENLY...
AS IF A BIGGER FORCE WON
OVER THE CHILD'S...

BUT THAT WAS
JUST ONE MAN,
HELGITH. WHO IS
HE? HOW COULD
HE HURT ME?



I DON'T KNOW, MASTER, BUT THE SIGNS ARE
FORMELS. IT WILL BE NEITHER GALATHORN
NOR THE VIKINGS, NOR YOUR BARONS WHO'LL
CAUSE YOUR LOSS.

IT'LL BE THE
MAN WE JUST
SAW!





ARE YOU DAYDREAMING PRETTY AARICIA? ABOUT THAT MAN YOU LOVED WHOM YOU NEVER WANTED TO TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT?



JOLAN! MY LITTLE BOY, AT LAST!



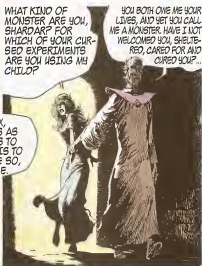
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM? HE'S SLEEPING SO DEEPLY, LIKE EVERY TIME THAT...

LEAVE HIM. HELGITH WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM. I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.



BUT HE NEEDS ME, HE'S STILL A BABY.

RELAX, JOLAN IS AS PRECIOUS TO ME AS HE IS TO YOU—MORE SO, I'M SURE.



WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ARE YOU, SHARDAR? FOR WHICH OF YOUR CURSED EXPERIMENTS ARE YOU USING MY CHILOP?

YOU BOTH OWE ME YOUR LIVES, AND YET YOU CALL ME A MONSTER. HAVE I NOT WELCOMED YOU, SHELTERED, CARED FOR AND CURED YOU?

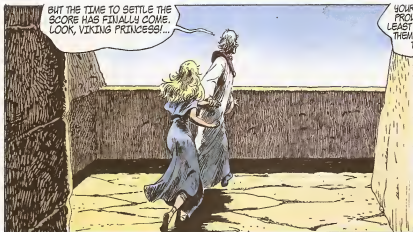


YOU'D HAVE DONE BETTER TO LET ME DIE AS I WANTED TO. WHAT POINT IS THERE IN LIVING IF IT'S TO BE A PRISONER IN THIS PALACE, DEPRIVED OF MY SON?

YOU'RE FORGETTING THAT IT'S YOUR PEOPLE WHO DEPRIVED ME OF MINE, AARICIA, WHEN THEY TOOK OFF WITH MY BLACK GALLEY.



VERONAR WAS LAZY, NARROW-MINDED AND CRUEL, I'M FORCED TO ADMIT IT, BUT HE WAS STILL MY SON, AARICIA. MY ONLY HEIR.

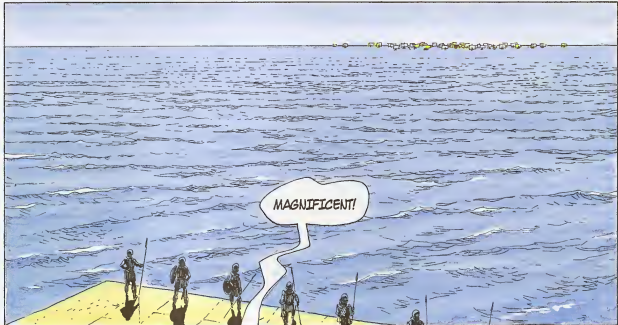


BUT THE TIME TO SETTLE THE SCORE HAS FINALLY COME. LOOK, VIKING PRINCESS!...



YOUR PEOPLE DO YOU PROUD. THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO THOUSAND OF THEM WHO HAVE COME TO FIND YOU!

!?

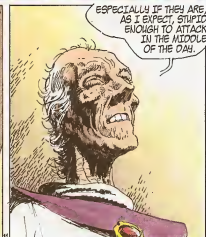


MAGNIFICENT!

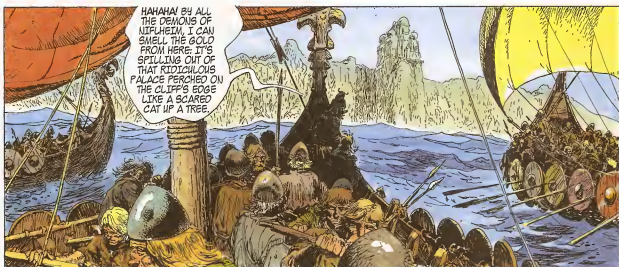


MY BROTHERS ARE SURELY MORE INTERESTED IN YOUR RICHES THAN IN ME, BUT EITHER WAY THE RESULT WILL BE THE SAME. YOUR BEAUTIFUL PALACE WILL SOON BE NO MORE THAN ASH, SHARDAR.

HMMM... DON'T CELEBRATE TOO FAST. IT'LL BE EASY FOR ME TO TEACH THOSE BRUTES THE PRICE OF GOLD...



ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE, AS I EXPECT, STUPID ENOUGH TO ATTACK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.



BUT... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ATTACK RIGHT AWAY, JORINOP GALATHORN! MUST BE ONLY A DAY'S MARCH AWAY FROM DEER CATCH, AND WE'D AGREED TO WAIT FOR HIS SIGNAL.

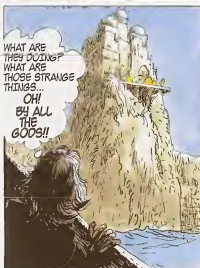
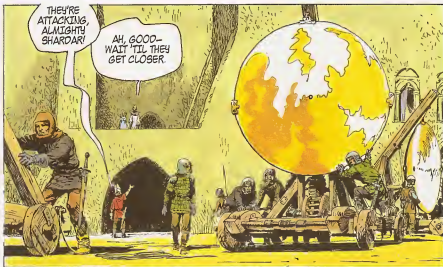
TO HELL WITH GALATHORN, WARGAN! THE CROSSING HAS BEEN HARD AND MY MEN ARE HUNGRY FOR A BATTLE.

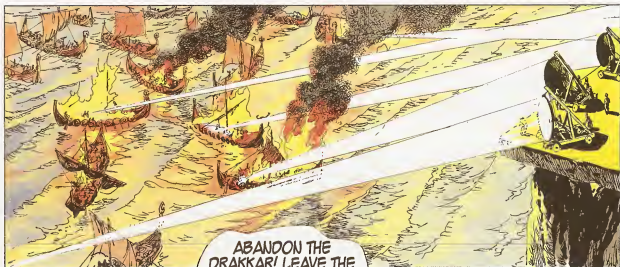
BUT IT'S MADNESS! I KNOW BREK ZARITH WELL. THERE AREN'T ENOUGH OF US TO TAKE IT IN DAYLIGHT. AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL NIGHT.

OH, COME ON! THOSE COWARDS WILL HAVE ALREADY RUN OFF INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE JUST AT THE SIGHT OF US.

WHAT'S MORE, A TRUE VIKING FACES HIS ENEMIES IN DAYLIGHT. SOUND THE ATTACK, IVAR!



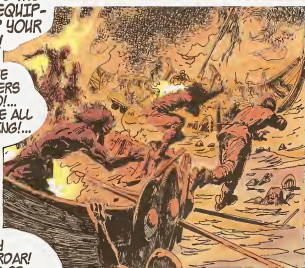




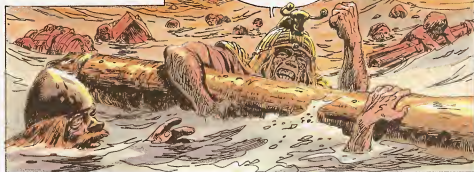
ABANDON THE
DRAKKAR! LEAVE THE
SUPPLIES AND EQUIP-
MENT, BUT KEEP YOUR
WEAPONS!



THE
OTHERS
TOO!...
THEY'RE ALL
BURNING!...



YOU'LL PAY
FOR THAT, SHARDARI!
BY THE SNAKE OF
MIDGARD'S HUNDRED
THOUSAND RINGS, YOU'LL
PAY FOR THAT WITH
ALL YOUR GOLD AND
ALL OF YOUR
BLOOD!!



WELL, THAT'S
WHAT I WOULD
CALL A QUICK,
CHEAP BATTLE...





MIRRORS, MY CHILD. SIMPLE CONCAVE, COPPER MIRRORS, AMPLIFYING AND REFLECTING THE SUN'S HARSHTEST MIDDAY RAYS. IT'S NOT MY IDEA, THOUGH. ARCHIMEDES ALREADY USED THIS METHOD A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE US TO BURN DOWN THE ROMAN GALLEYS THAT WERE LAYING SIEGE TO SURACUSE.

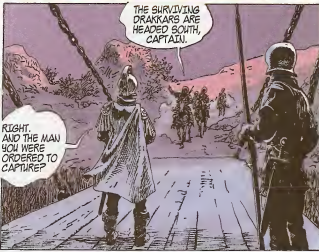
YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN A FEW MIRRORS TO MAKE THE VIKINGS GIVE UP SHARDAR.

THAT DOESN'T MATTER. I'VE MADE PROVISIONS FOR EVERYTHING. COME. LET'S GO AND PREPARE FOR THE FEAST THAT I'LL GIVE TONIGHT IN CELEBRATION OF THIS FIRST VICTORY.



SHOULD WE RAISE THE DRAWBRIDGE, CAPTAIN?

NOT YET. I'M WAITING FOR THE LAST PATROL... AH, HERE THEY COME.



THE SURVIVING DRANKKARS ARE HEADED SOUTH, CAPTAIN.

RIGHT. AND THE MAN YOU WERE ORDERED TO CAPTURE?



WE HAVEN'T FOUND HIM, CAPTAIN. NO SIGN OF AN UNKNOWN SUSPECT IN THE AREA.

PERFECT. MY TURN TO PLAY.



SAY, CAPTAIN, DON'T YOU FIND IT STRANGE THAT WE'RE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS SINGLE CHAP THAN THE HORDE OF VIKINGS ABOUT TO HIT US?

THEY'RE THE KING'S ORDERS, SOLDIER.

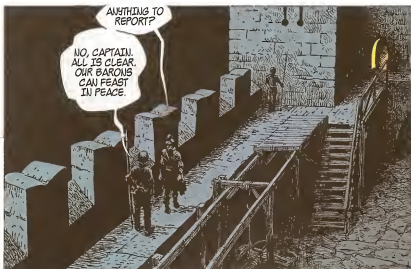
BUT, DANGEROUS OR NOT, TO GET INTO BREK EARTH...

...THIS MAN WOULD HAVE TO BE A BETTER BIRD THAN POOR BARON ZORN!
HAHA!

SLAMM!

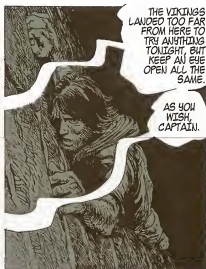
AND NOW, MAY ALL THE GODS COME TO MY AID!

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ANYTHING TO
REPORT?

NO, CAPTAIN.
ALL IS CLEAR.
OUR BARONS
CAN FEAST
IN PEACE.



THE VIKINGS
LANDED TOO FAR
FROM HERE TO
TRY ANYTHING
TONIGHT, BUT
KEEP AN EYE
OPEN ALL THE
SAME.

AS YOU
WISH,
CAPTAIN.



CLING



HMM...
ANYBODY
THERE?





HEY, GARETH,
DID YOU HEAR
SOMETHING?

NO,
NO...



OH, RIGHT,
I JUST
THOUGHT...



TONIGHT,
DOUBLE RATIONS
TO CELEBRATE
OUR VICTORY!

LONG
LIVE
SHARDARI!



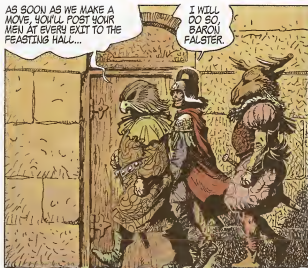
HOW, IN THIS
ENORMOUS PALACE,
AM I GOING TO
FIND AARICIA?



DO YOU
UNDERSTAND,
CAPTAIN?

AS SOON AS WE MAKE A
MOVE, YOU'LL POST YOUR
MEN AT EVERY EXIT TO THE
FEASTING HALL...

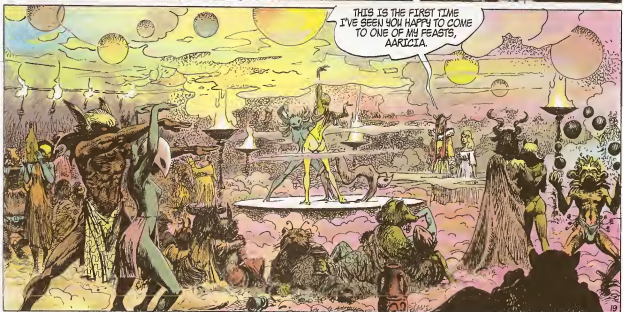
I WILL
DO SO,
BARON
FALSTER.

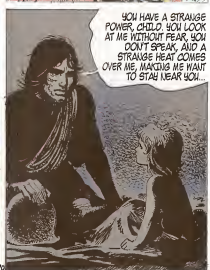
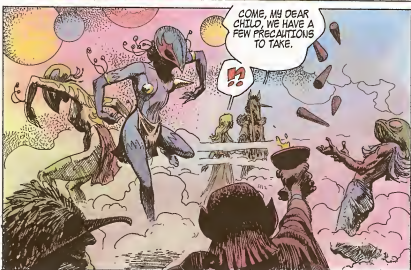
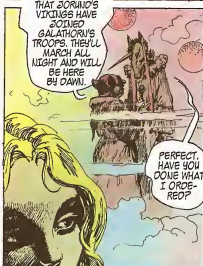
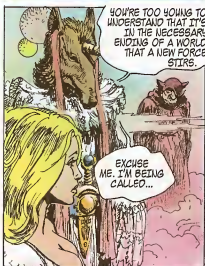


PHEW!
THEY'VE
GONE BY...



HAPPY...
THERE'S
SOMEONE
IN THIS
ROOM...



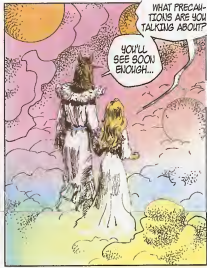


BUT I HAVE TO FIND
AARTICIA, THE WOMAN
I LOVE, LOST SOMEWHERE
IN THIS PALACE.
GOODBYE, CHILD.



WHAT PRECAUTIONS ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?

YOU'LL
SEE SOON
ENOUGH...



NOT SOON
ENOUGH FOR YOU,
SHARDAR. YOUR
TYRANNY IS OVER
AS OF TONIGHT.



THERE'S NO POINT CALLING FOR HELP,
SHARDAR. NOBODY HERE WILL SAVE
YOU, AND YOUR GUARDS ARE ON OUR
SIDE. WHEN PRINCE GALATHORN GETS
HERE TOMORROW, WE'LL OFFER HIM YOUR
HEAD AS A SIGN
OF ALLEGIANCE.



WELL, THAT'S QUITE
AN AUDACIOUS YET
SUBTLE PLAN, BARN
FALSTER. IN IT I CAN
SEE YOUR USUAL
BRAVERY...

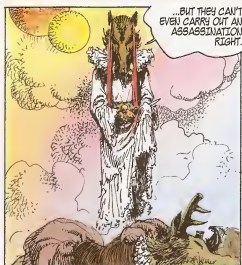


ENOUGH TALK,
TYRANT! LET'S
FINISH THIS!



CLUCK





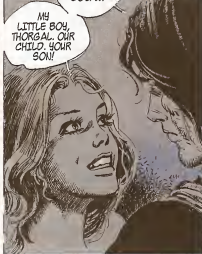
WE'LL KISS LATER, MY LOVE. THE MOST URGENT THING RIGHT NOW IS TO GET AWAY FROM THIS CURSED PLACE.



OH, YES! BUT... I HAVE TO GET JOLAN FIRST.

JOLAN?

MY LITTLE BOY, THORGAL, OUR CHILD, YOUR SON!



MY SON!...

COME, LET'S GO QUICKLY! MY ROOM ISN'T FAR FROM HERE.



JOLAN?...



THIS ROOM! I WAS HERE...

JOLAN! HE HAS DISAPPEARED!



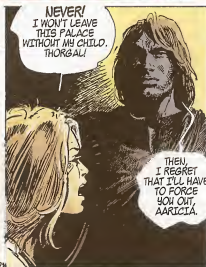
BY VALHALLA'S GODS, WHY DIDN'T I REALISE?!

MY LITTLE BOY... IT'S THAT ABOMINABLE HELGITH WHO TOOK HIM, I KNOW IT...



WE CAN'T WAIT HERE ANY LONGER, AARICIA. WE'LL GET CAUGHT. SHARDAR WON'T HURT JOLAN. I'LL FIND A WAY TO COME BACK AND GET HIM LATER...

NEVER! I WON'T LEAVE THIS PALACE WITHOUT MY CHILD, THORGAL!

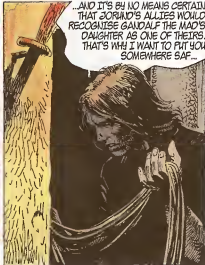


THEN, I REGRET THAT I'LL HAVE TO FORCE YOU OUT, AARICIA.

STANDING HERE WOULD BE AS DANGEROUS FOR YOU AS FOR ME. IN JUST A FEW HOURS, BREK GARTH WILL BE UNDER ATTACK BY GALATHORN AND THE VIKINGS WHOSE SUPPORT I GARNERED FOR HIM...

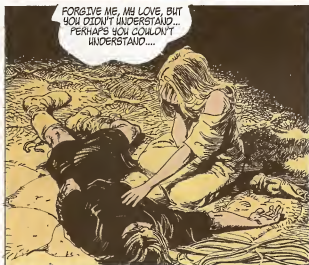


...AND IT'S BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT JORJAN'S ALLIES WOULD RECOGNISE GANDALF THE MAID'S DAUGHTER AS ONE OF THEIRS. THAT'S WHY I WANT TO PUT YOU SOMEWHERE SAF...



OW!

FORGIVE ME, MY LOVE, BUT YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND... PERHAPS YOU COULDN'T UNDERSTAND....



WELL DONE, AARICIA: YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO.



OH! JOLAN...

SO THIS IS THE MAN... THE WHEELS OF DESTINY ARE SOMETIMES QUITE STRANGE.



SPARE HIM, SHARDAR, I BEG OF YOU. I... I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

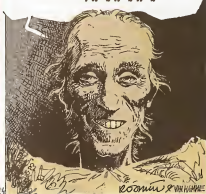
YOUR THORJAL IS VERY LUCKY TO BE LOVED SO MUCH... ~~THE~~ FIGHT, I AGREE. FOLLOW US.



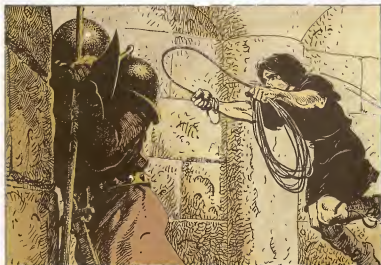
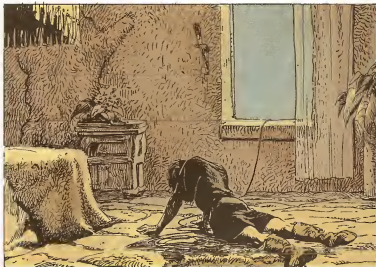
LET ME AT LEAST PUT HIM SOMEWHERE SAFE. THE FIGHTING...

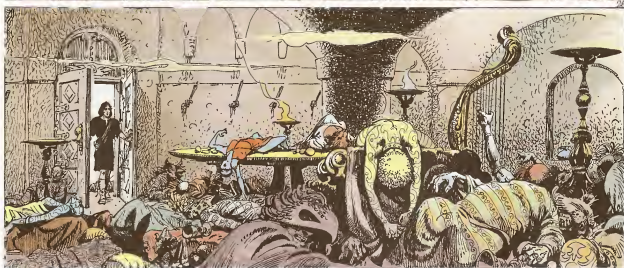
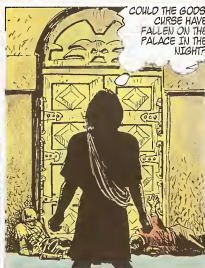
WHAT FIGHTING? DIDN'T YOU TELL ME YOURSELF THAT THE FEW MEN LEFT WERE IN A SLEEP THEY WOULD BE ~~AND~~ FIGHTING. MY PRETTY CHILD. GALATHORN IS COMING TO GET HIS KINGDOM? WELL, THEN, I'LL GIVE IT TO HIM!

HAAAA!



RODNEY & VIN HARRIS

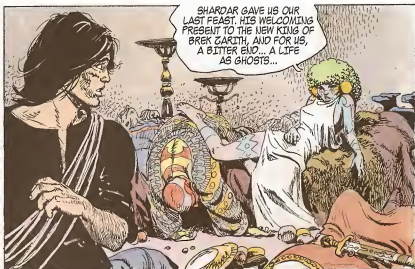






IT'S COMPLETELY DUBAHE!
WHAT CALANITH COULD
HAVE DONE THIS?

YOU'RE NOT
MISTAKEN, HAUD-
SOME BARBARIC!
THEY'RE DEAD,
TOO... WE'RE ALL
DEAD!



SHARDAR GAVE US OUR
LAST FEAST, HIS WELCOMING
PRESENT TO THE NEW KING OF
BREK EARTH, AND FOR US,
A BITTER END... A LIFE
AS GHOSTS...



AARICIA?
DO YOU KNOW
WHERE
AARICIA IS?

THE PRINCESS?...
SO, IT WAS YOU... HER
SOUL MATE? HOW...
LUCKY... SHE IS...



I WOULD SO MUCH
LIKE TO HAVE KNOWN...
WHAT IT WAS...
TO LOVE...



BY ODIN'S
HELMET, WHAT
HAPPENED HERE?!



JORUND!
GALATHORN!

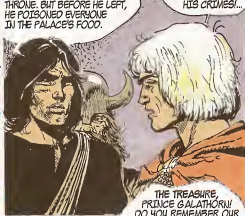
FINALLY SOMEONE
ALIVE IN THIS
TOMB PALACE! I'M
HAPPY THAT IT'S
YOU, THORGAL!

AND ME, TOO!
BUT HOW DID
YOU?...

THE DRAWBRIDGE
WAS LOWERED. WE
GOT IN WITH NO RESIS-
TANCE, AND I CAN SEE
WHY. WHAT HAPPENED,
THORGAL?

I FEAR IT'S ALL TOO EASY
TO GUESS. KNOWING THAT HE
COULDN'T DEFEND AGAINST
YOU, GHARDAR PREFERRED TO
FLEE AND ABANDON HIS
THRONE. BUT BEFORE HE LEFT,
HE POISONED EVERYONE
IN THE PALACE'S FOOD.

THAT MAN IS AN
ABOMINABLE
MONSTER! WE HAVE
TO FIND HIM AND
MAKE HIM PAY FOR
HIS CRIMES!...



YES, AND I SUSPECT THAT
HE HAS PROBABLY TAKEN
AARICIA AND MY SON WITH
HIM. TELL YOUR MEN TO
TOUCH NOTHING, SORJIND.
NEITHER FOOD NOR
WINE. THEIR LIFE
DEPENDS ON IT.

AFTER A NIGHT'S
MARCHING WITH NO
FOOD OR WATER,
THAT WON'T MAKE
THEM HAPPY...

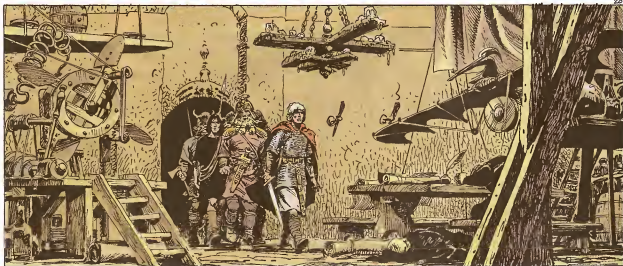


THE SOONER WE LEAVE
THIS CURSED PLACE,
THE BETTER. BUT
BEFORE WE LEAVE,
THERE'S ONE SMALL
THING LEFT TO SORT
OUT, MY DEAREST
ALLA...

WHAT'S
THAT?



THE TREASURE,
PRINCE GALATHORIN!
DO YOU REMEMBER OUR
AGREEMENT? YOU GET
BREK ZARTH'S THRONE, I
GET ITS GOLD! SO, IF THE
NEW SIRE OF THE CASTLE
WOULD KINDLY SHOW
US THE WAY...





I LOST HALF
MY DRAKKARS
AND THAT'S
QUITE ENOUGH
KEEP WALKING.

YOU DIDN'T DO
A LOT TO DESERVE
THIS BOOTY,
JORUND.



SO BE IT.
TAKE YOUR
PAY, VIKING!

OOOOH!



GET BACK, YOU LOT!
THIS GOLD BELONGS
TO NORTHERN MEN!

THIS GOLD
BELONGS
TO ME...



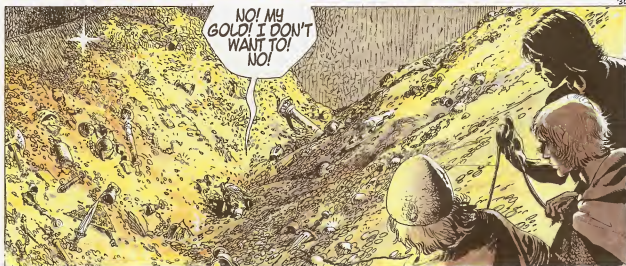
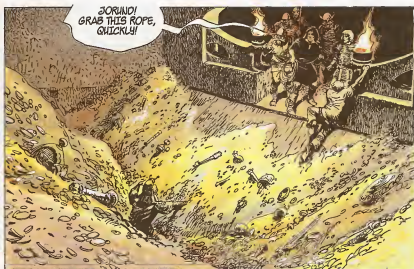
TO ME!
TO ME!
TO ME!

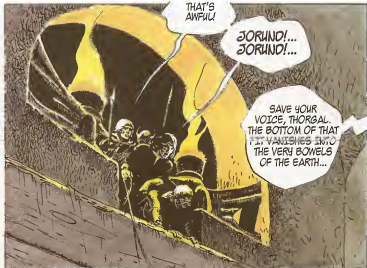


JORUND!
LOOK OUT!



?!?

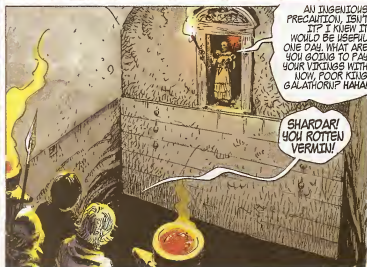




THAT'S
AWFUL!

JORUND!...
JORUND!...

SAVE YOUR
VOICE, THORGAL.
THE BOTTOM OF THAT
PIT VANISHES INTO
THE VERY BOWELS
OF THE EARTH...



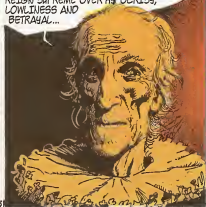
AN INGENUOUS
PRECAUTION, ISN'T
IT? I KNEW IT
WOULD BE USEFUL
ONE DAY. WHAT ARE
YOU GOING TO PAY
YOUR VIKINGS WITH
NOW, POOR KING
GALATHORNF? HAH!

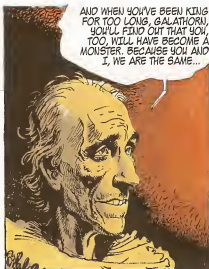
SHARDAR!
YOU ROTTEN
VERMIN!



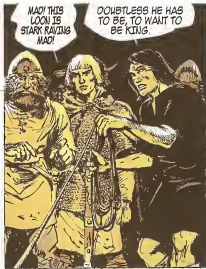
WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING ABOUT,
DEAR COUSIN? YOU WANTED TO WIN
BACK YOUR THRONE? WELL, IT'S ALL
YOURS. BREK GARITH WAS NO LONGER
ANY FUN. I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS. OF
COURSE, YOU'LL FEEL A LITTLE LONELY
AT YOUR CORONATION... BUT ISN'T IT
BETTER THIS WAY? ALSO,
I TRUST YOU...

YOU'LL SUBJUGATE NEW BARONS AND
VASSALS, YOU'LL SNATCH NEW TRIBUTES
TO REBUILD YOUR FORTUNE. YOU'LL LEARN
IN TIME THE DISCHING HEIGHTS OF
POWER, WHICH WILL ALLOW YOU TO
REIGN SUPREME OVER HUMOCRISH,
LOWLINESS AND
BETRAHAL...



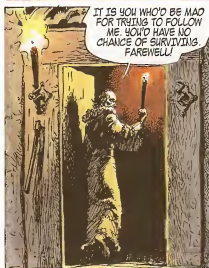


AND WHEN YOU'VE BEEN KING FOR TOO LONG, GALATHORN, YOU'LL FIND OUT THAT YOU, TOO, WILL HAVE BECOME A MONSTER. BECAUSE YOU AND I, WE ARE THE SAME...

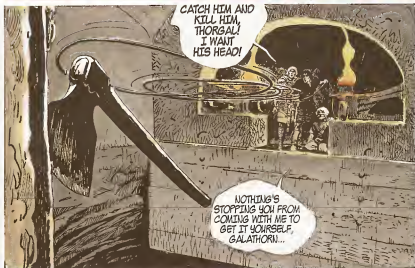


MAD! THIS LOON IS STARK RAVING MAD!

DOUBTLESS HE HAS TO BE, TO WANT TO BE KING.



IT IS YOU WHO'D BE MAD FOR TRYING TO FOLLOW ME. YOU'D HAVE NO CHANCE OF SURVIVING. FAREWELL!



CATCH HIM AND KILL HIM, THORGAL! I WANT HIS HEAD!

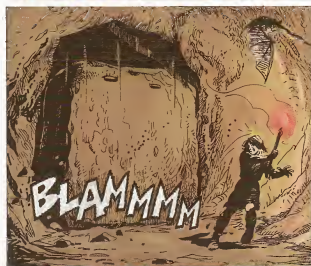
NOTHING'S STOPPING YOU FROM COMING WITH ME TO GET IT YOURSELF, GALATHORN...



I'LL LEAVE YOU YOUR BLOODY PRINCELY STRUGGLES...



MINE IS A SIMPLE AFFAIR BETWEEN MEN THAT STILL NEEDS SETTLING.



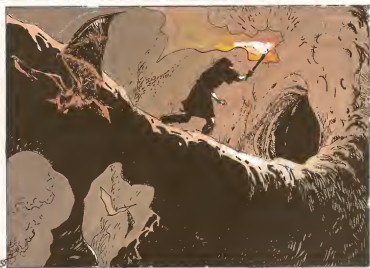
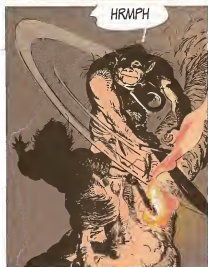


WHERE'S THE DANGER
THIS TIME? WHAT'S THE
NEW TRAP WAITING FOR
ME THROUGH HERE?...

??



?!
!!



THE BEAP AN
UNDERGROUND
LAKE?

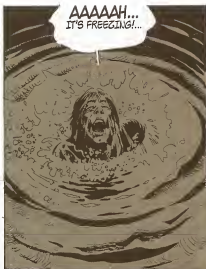
HOW DO I GET
DOWNP... THERE,
THOSE STEPS
SHOULD DO...

OBVIOUSLY
I HAVE TO EXPECT
A NEW TREACHERY
TO BEFALL ME...
BUT WHENP...

CLACK



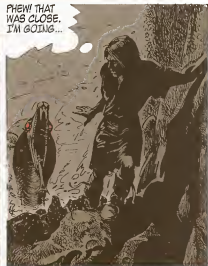
AAAAAH...
IT'S FREEZING!...



BY ALL
THE
GOOS!?!

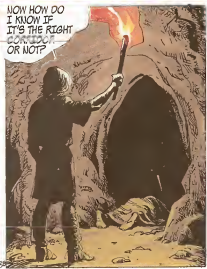
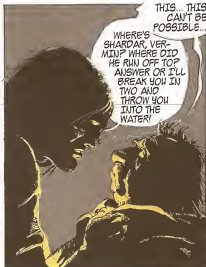


PHEW! THAT
WAS CLOSE.
I'M GOING...



??









FASTER,
HURRY UP!...



I... I CAN'T
GO ON...
I'M COLD...
I CAN'T
GO ON...

GET UP
I'M TELLING
YOU! WE HAVE
NO TIME TO
LOSE.

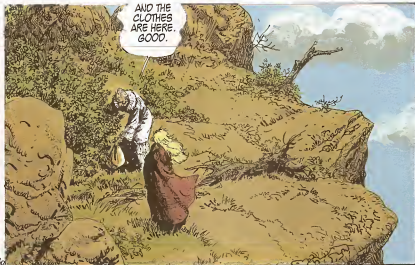


IT'S POINT-
LESS, SHARDAR.
WHEREVER YOU
TAKE ME THORGAL
WILL FIND US
AND HE'LL MAKE
YOU PAY FOR
HOW YOU CROAKED.

I STRONGLY
DOUBT THAT
THORGAL IS
STILL ABLE TO
FIND US. STAND,
AARICIA!



AT
LAST!



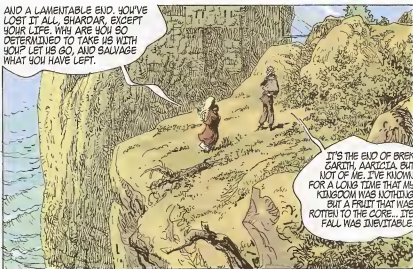
AND THE
CLOTHES
ARE HERE.
GOOD.



THERE... HAH! WHO'D BE ABLE TO RECOGNISE THE GREAT SHARDAR IN THESE OLD RAGS?...

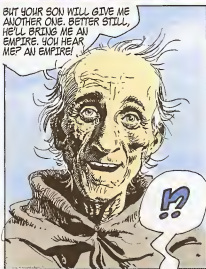
A SAD EXIT FOR A KING WHO CALLS HIMSELF GREAT!

AND A LAMENTABLE END. YOU'VE LOST IT ALL, SHARDAR, EXCEPT YOUR LIFE. WHY ARE YOU SO DETERMINED TO TAKE US WITH YOU? LET US GO, AND SALVAGE WHAT YOU HAVE LEFT.



IT'S THE END OF BREK GARTH, AARICIA, BUT NOT OF ME. I'VE KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME THAT MY KINGDOM WAS NOTHING BUT A FRUIT THAT WAS ROTTEN TO THE CORE... ITS FALL WAS INEVITABLE.

BUT YOUR SON WILL GIVE ME ANOTHER ONE. BETTER STILL, HE'LL BRING ME AN EMPIRE. YOU HEAR ME? AN EMPIRE!



!?

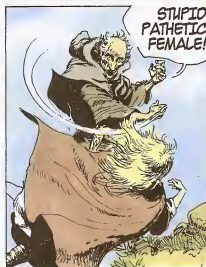


BUT YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND... BESIDES, YOUR ROLE ENDS HERE, AARICIA. I DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE. GIVE ME THE CHILD.

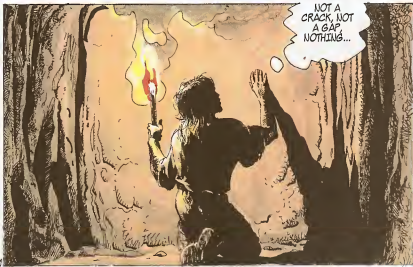
NO.



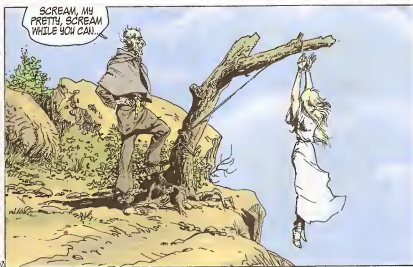
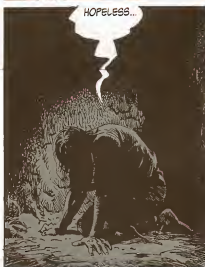
GIVE, I SAID... CURSES!!



STUPID PATHETIC FEMALE!

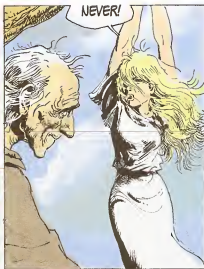


NOT A CRACK, NOT A GAP, NOTHING...





SINCE YOU REFUSE TO TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE HIDDEN YOUR SON, YOU'LL MAKE HIM COME HERE. I'LL MAKE YOU SCREAM WITH FEAR AND YOUR SHOUTS WILL BRING HIM HERE...



NEVER!



THEN YOU WON'T BE SCREAMING WITH FEAR BUT WITH PAIN, AARICIA. FOR THE LAST TIME, WHERE IS JOLAN?

IN A SAFE PLACE...



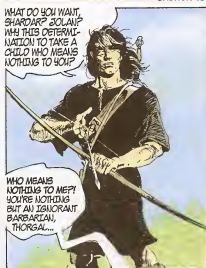
THORGA!

??

I CAME TO FIND MY FAMILY WITH NEITHER WEAPON NOR HATE, SHARDAR. BUT YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR NOW. FREE MY WIFE OR I'LL SKEWER YOU.



THAT'S RIGHT, SKEWER ME, POOR NAIVE IDIOT. KILL ME, AND MY LAST MOVE WILL BE CUTTING THIS ROPE.



WHAT DO YOU WANT, SHARDAR? JOLAN? WHY THIS DETERMINATION TO TAKE A CHILD WHO MEANS NOTHING TO YOU?

WHO MEANS NOTHING TO ME? YOU'RE NOTHING BUT AN IGNORANT BARBARIAN, THORGA!



THAT CHILD IS EVERYTHING, SINCE HE POSSESSES THE FORCE/ THROUGH THE INHERITANCE OF SOME UNKNOWN ORIGINS, THE CHILD YOU HAVE FATHERED WILL BE THE GREATEST...



SILENCE, FOOL!



IT'S OVER,
MY PRETTY!
NEITHER OF
US WILL
HAVE
JOLAN
NOW...

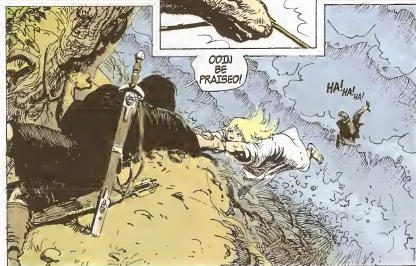


DON'T
MOVE, AARICIA!
DON'T MOVE!



AARICIA,
NO!

HA!
HA!

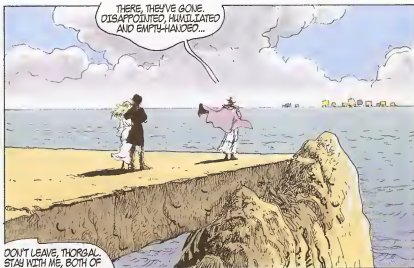


ODIN
BE
PRAISED!

HA!
HA!
HA!



THERE, THEY'VE GONE.
DISAPPOINTED, HUMILIATED
AND EMPTY-HANDED...



DON'T LEAVE, THORGAL.
STAY WITH ME, BOTH OF
YOU. I REALLY NEED
SOME HELP TO MAKE
BREK ZARTH INTO A
KINGDOM WORTHY OF
ITS NAME.



IT'S USELESS DIS-
TING, GALATHORI. MY
DEBT TO YOU IS PAID;
I OWE YOU NOTHING
MORE. I'VE FOUND A
ROWBOAT. WE'RE
LEAVING IN
AN HOUR.

TO GO WHERE? I BEG YOU TO
RECONSIDER, THORGAL. I'M NOT
ASKING YOU TO SERVE A THRAIT
LIKE SHARDAR. I'VE WON BACK MY
LEGITIMATE THRONE AND I WANT
TO BE A FAIR KING.



FAIR?
LEGITIMATE?

...LIKE
ME.



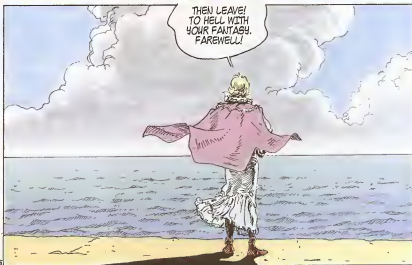
HOW CAN IT BE LEGI-
TIMATE FOR A MAN TO RULE
SUPREME OVER OTHER MEN?
WHAT WILL IT MATTER TO
YOUR SUBJECTS TO
HAVE A NEW MASTER? ...
THEY'LL NEVER BE
ANYTHING BUT
SUBJECTS.

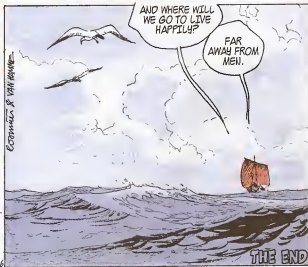
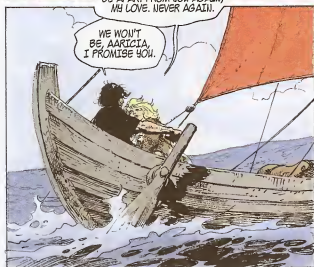
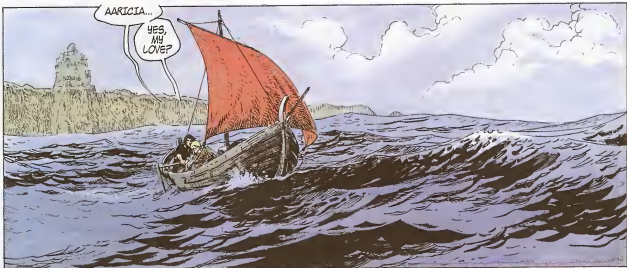


AARCIA AND I ARE NOT
LOOKING FOR POWER OR FOR-
TUNE, BUT SIMPLY THE FREEDOM
TO ACT AS OUR HEART TELLS US.
AND THAT FREEDOM,
GALATHORI, WE WON'T
FIND IN A KINGDOM
LIKE YOURS.



THEN LEAVE!
TO HELL WITH
YOUR FANTASY.
FAREWELL!

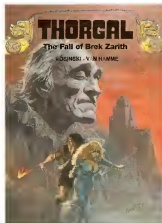




This two-volume book includes:

⑥ Beyond the Shadows

Taken back by Aaricia's disappearance, Thorgal is only a shadow of his former self. Consumed with remorse, the young Shania begs his pardon and accompanies him, protecting him in his wanderings... Two strangers, Worgan and Galathorn, reveal to them that Aaricia is still alive but held captive in the court of Brek Zarith. Ready to do anything to keep himself in power, Shardar, the illegitimate master of this kingdom, uses and abuses his evil powers. Despite all this, Thorgal will try, alone, to penetrate the impregnable fortress of Brek Zarith to save his wife and his son, Jolan.



THORGAL

THE GODS HAVE PUT A MAN TO THE TEST

Coming soon...



① Child of the Stars
Incl. Aaricia



② The Three Elders of Aran
Incl. The Black Galley



③ Beyond the Shadows
Incl. The Fall of Brek Zarith



④ The Archers
Incl. Alinee



Grzegorz Rosinski,
Artist of the series
Thorgal, Chninkel,
The Revenge of
Count Skarbek...



Jean Van Hamme,
Script writer of the series
Thorgal, Largo Winch,
XIII, Wayne Shelton,
Lady S... and movies
such as "Dive"

